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Date: 22 Mar

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*Pen. Sihanouk, Norodom*  
*CIA + Cambodia*

*Mr Goodwin*

PRINCE

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, MARCH 22 (REUTERS)-CAMBODIAN HEAD OF STATE PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK SAID TODAY HE WAS INFORMED OF A PLOT BY THE AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (C.I.A.) TO ELIMINATE HIM THIS YEAR.

HE TOLD NEWSMEN HIS INFORMATION CAME FROM "A FOREIGN PERSONALITY OF A NEUTRAL COUNTRY" WHO HEARD IT FROM AN AMERICAN NAMED GEORGE MCCO WHO WORKED FOR THE U.S. AID FOR AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION IN SAIGON.

SIHANOUK ADMITTED THAT THE STORY MIGHT NOT BE TRUE AND SAID IT COULD BE A LEFTWING MANEUVER.

"IF THE INTENTIONS ATTRIBUTED TO THE C.I.A. ARE CONFIRMED," SIHANOUK SAID, "THEIR RESULT WOULD BE TO PUSH CAMBODIA TOWARDS COMMUNISM, FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE WOULD THEN HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH VIETNAMESE, LAOTIAN AND THAI COMMUNISTS TO RESIST ATTEMPTS AT AMERICAN DOMINATION."

HE SAID CAMBODIA WOULD NEVER ACCEPT A NEW FORM OF COLONIALISM AND WOULD ALWAYS REFUSE TO ALLIGN ITS POLICY WITH THAT OF THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

GRB 10:56A

Comment: Goodwin and GSDO have copies.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.